

REMARKS

Applicants request entry of this Amendment to clarify Examiner's Amendment

An Examiner's Amendment was issued along with the Notice of Allowance on June 6, 2006. Applicants request entry of this Amendment After Allowance under 37 CFR 1.312 to make a minor adjustment following the Examiner's Amendment of claims 40, 56, and 70.

The amendments are supported in the application as originally filed, for example, from page 24, line 14, to page 25, line 6, reproduced below for convenience:

Figure 5 represents one step in an illustrative segmentation method in which the
15 similarity between the time-series signals of two neighboring regions is compared against
criteria to determine whether those regions should be merged together. The type of
measure of similarity chosen may vary depending on the segmentation method employed.
[0097] Curve 506 in Figure 5 represents the mean signal intensity 504 of region k in
each of a sequence of images and is graphed versus time 505. Mean signal intensity 504
20 of region k is expressed as in Equation (10):

$$w(k;t) = \frac{1}{N_k} \sum_{(i,j) \in S_k} w(i,j;t) \quad , \quad (10)$$

where $S_k \subset \mathbb{N}^2$ is the set of all pixels that belong to the k^{th} region and N_k is the size of S_k .

[0098] Curve 508 of Figure 5 represents the mean signal intensity 504 of region l and is
graphed versus time 505. Mean signal intensity 504 of region l is expressed as in
Equation (10), replacing " k " with " l " in appropriate locations. The shaded area 510 of
Figure 5 represents dissimilarity between mean signals over region k and region l . The
5 chosen measure of similarity, ϕ_k , also referred to herein as the fitting function, between
regions k and l may depend on the segmentation method employed. For the region

No new matter is added. Applicants contend this Amendment makes a minor clarification of the Examiner's Amendment and does not necessitate an additional search.

Applicants respectfully request consideration and entry of this Amendment After Allowance without removing this application from issuance.

Applicants request Initialed PTO-1449 forms

Applicants received initialed pages of PTO-1449 forms filed with the Third Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and the Fifth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, but Applicants have not received initialed pages of PTO-1449 forms filed with the following:

- Information Disclosure Statement, filed 5/6/2003;
- First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, filed 8/7/2003;
- Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, filed 10/14/2003; and
- Fourth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, filed 9/2/2005.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner initial sheets of the PTO-1449 forms corresponding to the above-referenced Information Disclosure Statements, attached at Exhibit A, indicating consideration of these documents, and send a copy of the initialed PTO-1449 form to Applicants.

Applicants request Corrected Filing Receipt indicating correct priority claim

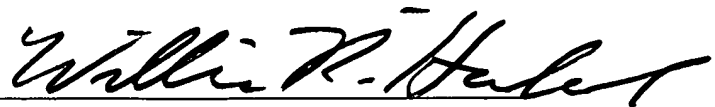
Applicants note that the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment filed on August 12, 2002, contains the correct priority claim for this case. However, Applicants have not received an Updated Filing Receipt indicating this priority claim, and this priority claim does not appear in the "Continuity Data" section of PAIR for this case.

Applicants respectfully request issuance of an Updated Filing Receipt indicating the correct priority claim. A copy of the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment filed on August 12, 2002, is attached at Exhibit B, for convenience.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment After Allowance without withdrawing this application from allowance. The Examiner is hereby cordially invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at the number listed below to discuss any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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